

FLAG OF ITALY - A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



Trivia

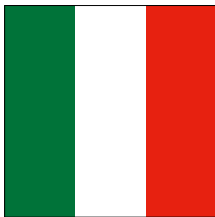
A version of the Italian tricolour has been used since 1797.

Technical Specification

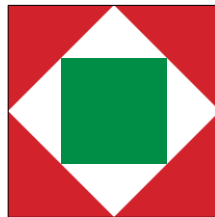
Adopted:	1 st January 1948
Proportion:	2:3
Design:	A green, white and red vertical tricolour flag.
Colours:	PMS – Green: 17-6153 TC, White: 11 -0601 TC, Scarlet: 18-1662 TC CMYK – Green: 100% Cyan, 0% Magenta, 100% Yellow, 45% Black; Red: 0% Cyan, 100% Magenta, 100% Yellow, 0% Black

Brief History

Before 1848 there were separate pre-unitary flags for each republic that made up Italy. The first Italian green-white-red tricolour appeared during the Napoleonic era with the Flag of the Cisalpine Republic in 1797. When Napoleon declared himself president of Italy in 1802 the first Italian Republic was founded. The flag became a square red field with a green square in a white diamond. This was soon changed to a rectangular flag with the a golden eagle at its centre when the Kingdom of Italy was born.



The Flag of the Cisalpine Republic (1797 -1802)



The Flag of the Italian Republic (1802 – 1805)



The Flag of the Kingdom of Italy (1805 – 1814)

In 1841 the Italian people fought for their independence and by 1861 they won, taking the war flag of the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont army as their Civil Flag and Ensign. This flag was to last until the creation of the Italian Socialist Republic in 1943. A variant / war flag of the Socialist Republic featured silver hawk clutching a scroll with the words 'fasci littori'.



The Flag of the Kingdom of Italy (1861 – 1943)



The Flag of the Italian Socialist Republic (1943 – 1945)



The War Flag of the Italian Socialist Republic (1943 – 1945)

A revolution saw the end of Mussolini's Fascist regime in 1945 and by 1948 the modern Italian tricolour was adopted as part of the new Italian Republic. The flag itself is identical to both the flag of the Italian Socialist Republic.

There are no conventions for flying the flag, however when displayed with other flags the Italian flag must be raised first and lowered last. Also on days of mourning it must be at half-mast and can have two black ribbons attached.



**The Current Italian Flag
(1948 to Present Day)**

The Italian Ensigns

The Civil Ensign features the tricolour with a shield at its centre.

The shield is split into four squares representing the republics of Venice, Genoa, Amalfi and Pisa.



The Civil Ensign of Italy

The Naval Ensign is the Flag of Italy with a shield representing the four Maritime Republics, lion of St. Mark on the top left, Cross of Genoa top right, Cross of Amalfi bottom lower left and Pisa on the lower right. Above the shield is a naval crown.



The Naval Ensign of Italy

The State Ensign features the Italian green-white-red flag with the State Emblem in its centre.

The emblem features a five-spoke cogwheel behind a red-bordered five-pointed star. On the left hand side is an olive branch and at the right is an oak branch, they are bound by a red ribbon reading REPVBBLICA ITALIANA.



The State Ensign of Italy

The Presidential Standard of Italy

The current Presidential Standard of Italy features a blue square flag with the Napoleonic Flag of the Italian Republic in its centre.

Inside the Napoleonic flag is a golden Italian State Emblem.



Flags of the Regions of Italy











Each region of Italy has its own personal flag and Coat of Arms. Here are the current flags of the individual regions.

			
The Flag of Abruzzo	The Flag of Aosta Valley	The Flag of Apulia	The Flag of Basilicata
			
The Flag of Calabria	The Flag of Campania	The Flag of Emilia-Romagna	The Flag of Lazio
			
The Flag of Liguria	The Flag of Lombardy	The Flag of Marche	The Flag of Molise
			
The Flag of Piedmont	The Flag of Sardinia	The Flag of Sicily	The Flag of Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol
			
The Flag of Tuscany	The Flag of Umbria	The Flag of Veneto	

The Pre-Unitarian Flags of Italy

As mentioned in the Brief history of the Italian flag, before 1848 each region of Italy was its own republic, Duchy or Papal State with its own flag.

Here are the individual flags not shown in the brief history section in order of date founded.

			
The Flag of the Republic of Venice (697 – 1797)	The Flag of the Republic of Amalfi (958 -1569)	The Flag of the Republic of Genoa (1005 -1797)	The Republic of Pisa (11th Century – 1406)
			
The Flag of the Republic of Siena (11th Century -1406)	The Flag of the Republic of Florence (1115 -1532)	The Flag of the Republic of Lucca (1160 – 1805)	The flag of Duchy of Florence (1532 -1569)
			
The Flag of the Kingdom of the Two Scillies (1738 – 1860)	The Flag of the Papal States (1803 – 1808)		